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VIRGINIA'S NEXT GOVERNOR, GEN. FITZHUGH LEE

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NOTE.—This little biographical sketch was written by one of Virginia's most eminent divines, as well as one of its ablest writers; but owing to the author's modesty his name is withheld.

THE PUBLISHERS.



NEW YORK :
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PREFACE.

We present to the readers of this pamphlet, on the front cover, an excellent likeness of the much beloved and popular Democratic candidate for Governor of Virginia, General FITZHUGH LEE, and we hope for the kind appreciation of the reading people of Virginia, (especially among the Democratic party,) in its large circulation.

THE AUTHOR.

OUR NEXT GOVERNOR,
GEN. FITZHUGH LEE,
OF VIRGINIA.

If it be true that "blood will tell," then may we claim for the subject of this sketch the advantage of as illustrious a lineage as ever fell to the lot of man.

For two centuries the Lees have been illustrious in the annals of the "Old Dominion," have written their names upon the brightest pages of colonial and revolutionary history, have won highest honors in the path of glory that led to the halls of the Montezumas, and have filled the world with the fame of their great deeds in the "war between the States."

A recent writer, skilled in tracing genealogies, has shown that they are directly descended from King Robert, the Bruce of Scotland, and have inherited all of his noble traits.

But the Lees of to-day have no need to trace back their ancestry to princes or kings, for they are themselves among the noblest of the name—

"The knightliest of the knightly race,
That in the days of old,
Kept bright the lamp of chivalry,
Aglow in hearts of gold."

And certain it is that if the name had never been illustrious before, the gallant deeds, the genial character, the sterling integrity, the honest industry, and the patriotic

public services of Fitzhugh Lee would be enough to make it—

“One of the few, the immortal names,
That were not born to die.”

Gen. Fitzhugh Lee was born at Clermont, Fairfax County, Virginia, November 19, 1835, and is now in the fiftieth year of his age. His father was Capt. Sydney Smith Lee, who left the United States Navy at the breaking out of the war and joined the Confederate Navy.

Gen. Lee is a grandson of Gen. Henry Lee, or “Light-Horse Harry,” and a nephew of the late Gen. Robert E. Lee. The mother of Gen. Lee was a granddaughter of George Mason and a sister of James M. Mason, who for many years represented Virginia in the United States Senate, and was Minister from the Confederacy in England during war.

We know but little of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee’s boyhood days, save that he is spoken of by old neighbors and friends as a bright, manly boy, full of fun, and fonder of the play-ground than of his books.

At the age of sixteen he was appointed a cadet at West Point, where he graduated in 1856, and having graduated at the head of his class in horsemanship, he was commissioned Second-Lieutenant in the famous old Second Cavalry (now the Fifth), of which Albert Sidney Johnston was Colonel, R. E. Lee, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Wm. J. Hardee and George H. Thomas, Majors. Among the Captains were Earl Van Dorn, E. Kirby Smith, Innis M. Palmer and George Stoneman, and among the Lieutenants were Nathan G. Evans, Richard W. Johnson, Charles W. Field, Geo. B. Cosby, William W. Lowe, John B. Hood and Fitzhugh Lee, all of whom rose to high rank in either the Confederate or the Federal armies.

Our young Lieutenant soon distinguished himself even in this brilliant galaxy of soldiers, and won the admiration of his comrades, and the respect and confidence of his superiors. He first rendered very important service (under Col. Charles A. May, of Mexican War fame,) at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., in drilling and disciplining new recruits, and it was the reputation he won here, as well as his standing at West Point and subsequent service on the frontier, which secured for him afterwards an appointment as Instructor of Cavalry at the Military Academy. After a year's service at Carlisle Barracks he was sent to join his regiment, then serving on the frontier of Texas, where he greatly distinguished himself in the various fights with the Indians.

He was the Second-Lieutenant of Kirby Smith's company, and when the company joined the celebrated and successful Wichita expedition under Van Dorn, Lee was selected by Van Dorn as his adjutant. In the battle of May 13, 1859, between six companies of his regiment and a large force of Comanche Indians (the largest fight that had ever taken place between the Indians and U. S. troops), he was chosen to command a picked body that charged on foot the thick jungle in which the Indians had taken refuge.

He fell, towards the conclusion of the fight, pierced through the lungs with an arrow, was carried out on the prairie, and for some weeks his life was despaired of. He was borne over 200 miles over the prairie back to his post, in a horse litter. He finally recovered of his wound and regained his health, contrary to the expectations of his physicians.

General Scott, in published orders, mentioning this success and referring to the commanding officer's report, says :

"Major Van Dorn notices the conspicuous gallantry and energy of Second-Lieutenant Fitzhugh Lee, Adjutant of the expedition, who was dangerously wounded."

On the 15th of January, 1860, we find him again mentioned in orders by General Scott, as having, in command of a portion of his company, had another fight with the Indians, in which his rapid pursuit, recovery of stolen property, and personal combat with one of the chiefs are all highly commended.

In latter part of May, 1860, Lee was detached from his regiment and ordered to report to West Point as an Instructor in Cavalry—a complimentary detail, and one eagerly sought for by officers of mounted regiments. Under his tuition at that time was Kilpatrick, Custer, and others who have obtained some fame since among their comrades.

He was one of the most popular and successful instructors whom West Point ever had.

Rigid in his discipline, and at the same time courteous and polite to all, he won the respect of his associates, and the enthusiastic love of the cadets, while he was making a reputation as a teacher, which clearly showed that he could have made a splendid success of the noble art of teaching, had he chosen that as his profession.

When the war broke out he was at his post at the Military Academy, and strong inducements were offered him, and strong pressure brought to bear upon him to keep him in the "old service." He was told that if he was not willing to fight on the side of the Union, he could remain during the war in his position as Instructor at West Point, where honor, good pay, and easy service were at his command. But Fitzhugh Lee was not the man to compromise with his convictions, or hesitate in the path of duty. All of his early training, his education, the traditions of his family, and his tenderest associations, and dearest ties, bound him to the Union.

But, as a descendent of George Mason, and of "Light Horse Harry Lee," he had been trained in that school which recog-

nized the sovereignty of the States. He did not believe in the right of the National Government to coerce a seceding State—and when the voice of his native Virginia called on her sons to rally to her defence, our young knight rode forth as promptly to obey her call, as knight of old ever responded to the call of “fair lady.” He resigned his commission in the U. S. Army, and, along with his gallant father, noble uncle, and chivalric brothers and cousins, he tendered his stainless sword to “the land he loved so well,” the cause he was to serve with a true knight’s devotion.

He was first placed on staff duty, and made Adjutant-General of the brigade of General R. S. Ewell, in which capacity he served during the first battle of Manassas, and until September, 1861, when on the strong recommendation of General J. E. Johnston, and General J. E. B. Stuart, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Virginia Cavalry, of which Stuart was then Colonel.

He distinguished himself in the brilliant outpost service of the cavalry along the lines in front of Washington, which won for his devoted friend, ‘Jeb.’ Stuart, his wreath and stars as Brigadier-General, and showed the very highest qualities as a cavalry leader.

When Stuart was promoted, he was made Colonel of the regiment, and when, in April, 1862, the re-organization of the army occurred, (under that vicious law, that gave the men the privilege of electing their own officers) near Yorktown, he was elected Colonel of the regiment with only four dissenting voices.

Henceforth our “gallant Fitzhugh” was so intimately connected with the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia that a sketch of his services would be a history of the cavalry corps; only a brief outline can be given.

On the retreat from Yorktown, Lee’s regiment was given the duty of watching the York River, and he first gave in-

formation of the flanking movement up that river of Franklin, and his landing at Barhamsville—personally reconnoitering so close that he gave not only the number but the names of the enemy's transports and gunboats. In the succeeding operations around Richmond, Lee was with the command of General Stuart, and participated in all the enterprises of that officer.

About the middle of June, 1862, Stuart performed his famous raid around the army of McClellan as it lay in front of Richmond. Lee, with his regiment, was selected to accompany him, and shared with one other regiment and a battalion the dangers of that enterprise, which "blazed the way for Jackson's subsequent flank movement."

After the battles around Richmond, more cavalry were brought from the South and formed into a brigade under Wade Hampton.

Stuart was made Major-General, and Fitzhugh Lee was promoted to the rank of Brigadier, taking Stuart's place, the latter commanding the two brigades. Lee's brigade consisted of the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Ninth Virginia Regiments, with a Battery of Horse Artillery under Captain James Breathed.

In the campaign against the Federal General Pope, Fitzhugh Lee's command, together with B. H. Robertson's brigade (Ashby's old brigade), constituted the command of Stuart. Hampton was left in the vicinity of Richmond, and joined the army afterwards in Maryland.

The services of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee in this campaign were important and valuable, and were recognized by the Commanding-General in lively terms.

Just before the second battle of Manassas a chivalrous incident occurred. General Fitzhugh Lee had surprised and captured a squadron of the Second U. S. Dragoons (regulars), and discovering some old comrades among the officers,

he merely took their word that they would not escape, and kept them at his headquarters as guests. They rode with his staff and himself during a few days' subsequent operations, and were occasionally under the fire of their own men. Through the intercession of General Lee these officers were made an exception to the retaliatory rule against the officers of Pope's army, and were paroled. They were furnished with horses to ride to their own line.

During the thickest of the fight one of these old comrades, noticing that the General was in need of a staff officer to carry a dispatch, said to him : "I will carry it for you, Fitz." "Good," replied the chivalrous soldier, "I will be much obliged if you will do so. I rely on your honor to carry it straight," and the gallant fellow galloped through a heavy fire from his own men, delivered the message, and brought back the reply.

In Stuart's celebrated raid on Catlett's Station, in which he captured General Pope's headquarters, and secured information which shaped the subsequent plans of General R. E. Lee, General Fitzhugh Lee led the van, and came very near capturing General Pope himself.

Just after the war, General Lee was at Willard's Hotel, in Washington one day, quietly reading a newspaper, when a party of Federal officers came in, and entering into the relation of war reminiscences, they soon began to talk about the affair at Catlett's Station. One of them gave a very vivid account of how Colonel Louis Marshall (a first cousin of General Fitzhugh Lee,) and himself were quietly mixing their glasses of toddy (sweetening to their taste, putting in nutmeg, ice, etc.) in one of the tents at Headquarters, when suddenly the "Rebel yell" was heard, and Stuart's cavalry came charging out of the blackness of that rainy night, and through the camp. "And I declare to you, gentlemen," said the narrator, "that I never remembered, and cannot

tell to this day, whether we drank those toddies or not. I do know that we went through the back of the tent and escaped to the woods in the darkness."

"General Fitzhugh" who had listened with deep interest to the narrative, and, who could stand it no longer, arose and said: "Excuse me, gentlemen, for interrupting your conversation, but it so happens that I can supply the information about which that gentlemen seems in doubt. *They did not drink those toddies.* I drank one of them myself, and a friend who was with me drank the other. Coming up to the tent just after it was vacated, we found two glasses of toddy, and, had sufficient confidence that it was not poisoned to try its quality; and I can testify that this gentleman and my respected cousin, Louis Marshall, *know how to make toddies.*" This was, of course, greeted with hearty laughter. In response to eager inquiries the General quietly said: "My name is Fitzhugh Lee, of the Virginia cavalry." And there were introductions, and a most cordial interchange of reminiscences of the war; the General finding it very difficult to break away at all from his quondam enemies, but new-made friends, and when he did so, it was with a promise to meet them again, and give them an opportunity of "drawing rations" for the gallant and chivalrous cavalryman.

General Lee's services during the battle of Manassas, and the subsequent advance across the Potomac into Maryland, were invaluable.

On the night of the 14th of September, after D. H. Hill's defence of South Mountain Pass, near Boonsboro, and it was decided to retire him to Sharpsburg, General Fitzhugh Lee, who had just returned to the army from a long reconnoissance, was ordered to relieve the pickets then in close proximity to the enemy, in order that Hill might withdraw undiscovered. This was a most difficult and dangerous en-

terprise. It was so admirably performed, and such was the vigor of Lee's opposition, that the enemy did not appear on the opposite side of the Antietam until the afternoon of the second day.

After the battle of Sharpsburg, and when it was decided to withdraw the army to the Virginia side of the Potomac, General Fitzhugh Lee was again chosen to relieve the pickets while they were withdrawn under cover of the night. It was a hazardous operation.

General Lee had to string his whole brigade out the length of the line of battle of the enemy, dismount his men some distance in the rear, and send them to relieve the infantry pickets of the entire army, which were within easy hearing of those of the enemy. It had to be done in such a way that the enemy should not discover the change, but continue to imagine the whole Confederate force in their front.

The Potomac rolled only three miles off, and there was but one ford, and that a bad one, to cross. Should the enemy discover the ruse, there was the difficulty of getting this brigade, in its scattered, dismounted condition across the river, to rejoin the army.

During the night of the 18th of September the Army of Northern Virginia was safely withdrawn to the south side of the Potomac, and when day dawned on the 19th, in its place, confronting the whole army of McClellan, was Fitzhugh Lee's brigade. It was soon in the saddle, and before McClellan could recover from his surprise had safely recrossed the river, having first given the enemy's advance a parting salute on the Maryland side.

The services of the cavalry in this campaign were remarkable, and in the official report of the commanding officer it was declared :

"Its vigilance, activity and courage were conspicuous,

and to its assistance is due, in a great measure, some of the most important and delicate operations of the campaign."

In subsequent operations near the line of the Rappahannock, General Fitzhugh Lee was active, co-operating with other portions of Stuart's cavalry in the attack on the enemy's rear at Dumfries, and in February, 1863, having an independent affair with the enemy, breaking through his outposts near Falmouth, and taking 150 prisoners.

Having retired to his camp in the vicinity of Culpeper Court House, he was called upon to meet a retaliatory movement of the enemy's cavalry, which, having crossed the Rappahannock on the 17th of March, designed to overwhelm his detached brigade. An entire division of cavalry, under Averill, (about 3,000 men,) was assigned to the enterprise. With not more than 800 of his command (many of the men having been sent home to recruit their horses), General Lee moved out to meet the enemy, and fought the brilliant battle of Kelly's Ford. It was a decisive victory for the Confederates, and the hardest cavalry fight of the war, considering the numbers engaged.

In the battle of Chancellorsville, General Fitzhugh Lee's brigade was selected to precede the troops in General Jackson's grand flank movement, and was disposed in such a manner as to guard the front and flanks of the columns from observation. It was the close personal reconnoissance of Lee that gave Jackson the point of view, where he could observe the lines and batteries of Howard's corps, and where, comprehending the situation at a glance, he instantly changed his plan of attack to that which completely surprised the enemy. By this observation General Jackson discovered a way which would let Rode's division into the rear of Howard's line, and at once gave a new command to it to cross the plank road on which it was moving. The result was that this division came so unexpectedly

upon the enemy that some of his batteries were captured, with their muzzles pointing in an opposite direction. In the Pennsylvania campaign General Fitzhugh Lee was with Stuart, and his command was constantly engaged with the enemy. In the severe fight at Hanover, Pa., he saved the day by coming in on the enemy's rear and routing Kilpatrick's division. At Gettysburg he was on the extreme left, hotly engaging the enemy's cavalry, and on the subsequent retreat of the army he did his accustomed good service in bringing up the rear.

In the latter part of 1863 the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia was divided into two divisions, of three brigades each ; and Hampton and Fitzhugh Lee were promoted to command them, the two being under Stuart as senior Major-General. This promotion General Fitzhugh Lee had obtained on a record of almost unexampled success; his active disposition and brilliant courage had by this time made for him one of the first reputations in the army. The repeated mention of his name in the careful reports of General Robert E. Lee had made it familiar and dear to the public, and in May, 1863, shortly after the battle of Chancellorsville, we find the Commanding-General warmly writing to him as follows :

"Your admirable conduct, devotion to the cause of your country, and devotion to duty fill me with pleasure. I hope you will soon see her efforts for independence crowned with success, and long live to enjoy the affection and gratitude of your country."

No doubt General Robert E. Lee felt honorable pride in the achievements of his gallant nephew. At another time he wrote :

"Your division has always had a high reputation. It must not lose it."

And it never did lose it to the last day of the Confederacy.

We must pass to the vital campaign of 1864 to find the most memorable and brilliant passages in the military career of General Fitzhugh Lee. In the very opening of the campaign, when Grant crossed the Rapidan, Lee's division was called upon for a decisive action. It then formed the right of the long Confederate line, extending from Madison Court House to a point below Fredericksburg, and was rapidly moved to cover Spottsylvania Court House. From this time commenced a series of cavalry fights, running from North Virginia to the neighborhood of Richmond.

On the day that Longstreet's advance reached Spottsylvania Court House the Federal cavalry was relieved by the Fifth Corps, Infantry (the advance of Grant's army), and against this force the cavalry division of Fitzhugh Lee held its ground most manfully, until the Confederate infantry arrived, and the position was secured to General Lee.

The importance of Spottsylvania Court House as a military position was then vital, and the service of Lee's cavalry on this occasion was an important element of the campaign.

Scarcely a day elapsed when it was called to another and imminent field. Sheridan had started on a raid to the Central Railroad, and in the direction of Richmond, and Lee's division was ordered to follow, General Stuart having joined it, and reinforced the expedition by Gordon's brigade, which, however, moved by a different route. On the entire march Lee's advance was engaged with the enemy's rear.

It chased out of Ashland a Massachusetts regiment which had already fired three houses in the village, and the same day at Yellow Tavern, six miles from Richmond, it fought in one of the most thrilling conjunctures, within hearing of the alarmed inhabitants of the capital. From ten in the morning until six in the evening Fitzhugh Lee's seven regiments contested ground with Sheridan's whole corps, and

accomplished the object of the action in the purchase of time, although forced at last to retire.

It was in this engagement that General Stuart fell, and it must have comforted the heroic heart of the dying man that the favorite division of the command had won such an important day.

A letter from General Bragg to General Fitzhugh Lee, after the battle, assured him that the safety of Richmond had been accomplished at Yellow Tavern; as the resistance there had enabled him to withdraw troops from Drewry's Bluff to man the works on that side of the city.

It is not possible within the limits of this sketch to include all the operations of General Fitzhugh Lee's command, when the campaign lingered around Richmond, and the cavalry was almost daily skirmishing on the lines or making excursions to check Sheridan's active and erratic movements. The action, however, of Ream's Station claims notice as the most important incident of these operations.

The prize contested here, was the Danville Road, and the glory achieved here by Fitzhugh Lee's division is a laurel of the command not to be omitted. Two divisions of Federal cavalry under Wilson, were returning from their raid on the railroad, when Lee in concert with two of Mahone's brigades, struck them, stripped them of their spoils and artillery, and put them to shameful route. Wilson carried back to his lines nothing on wheels; his wagons, eighteen pieces of artillery, and even his ambulances fell into Lee's hands; besides, eight hundred negroes who had been abducted from their homes.

Shortly after this event, Fitzhugh Lee's division was ordered to report to Lieutenant-General Anderson, who was sent to Early with Kershaw's division, and the campaign of the valley was inaugurated. The important events of that campaign are well known. In the disastrous battle of

Winchester, General Lee was conspicuous for his gallantry, and exposed his life on every part of the field.

Three horses were shot under him; one, his beautiful mare, "Nellie Gray," a favorite of the command, and, at last, he was brought to the ground by a minie ball, which pierced his thigh. He was kept from duty by the wound for several months.

In the Spring of 1865, he was summoned to Richmond, and, by order of the Commanding-General, placed in command of the cavalry corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Shortly thereafter followed the battle of Five Forks, in which the mistake was made, not by Fitzhugh Lee, of not following up the first success, when the enemy were driven within a quarter of a mile of Dinwiddie Court House.

The superiority of the Virginia cavalry was never better shown than on the retreat which ended at Appomattox Court House. Fitzhugh Lee was one of the three corps commanders, who with General R. E. Lee, composed the council of war, just before the surrender. His cavalry had covered the retreat, and been in one scene of incessant fight; and, though passing events and knowledge of the failure of the "cause" were depressing the spirits of the men, a more gallant or more faithful body never resisted the enemy. It was ultimately determined in the council of war, referred to, that Fitzhugh Lee and Gordon should attack the enemy on the road to Appomattox station, so as to cut an exit to Lynchburg; the conditions of the attack being reduced to this: If cavalry only was found in front, they might push on; if infantry, a surrender was inevitable.

It is well-known heavy masses of infantry were discovered in front; that the enemy showed himself on all sides, and that the necessity of surrender was accepted.

In the fight, that morning, two pieces of artillery were captured from the enemy, and if only Sheridan's cavalry had

barred the way the surrender would not have taken place at Appomattox Court House. But, after driving Sheridan back, the thin lines of Lee and Gordon ran up against the Army of the James, and surrender to "overwhelming numbers and resources" became inevitable.

General Fitzhugh Lee, knowing what would follow, cut his way out with a large part of his command, and would have gone to join General Johnston, but learning several days afterwards that he, too, was included in the surrender, with that high sense of honor which ever characterized him, he promptly returned to Farmville and surrendered to General Meade in person.

Going home from the surrender, with his hopes blighted and his fortunes ruined, he did not sit down to pine over "what might have been," but took off his coat, "beat his sword into a plowshare," hitched his war steed to the plow and went to work on his desolated farm in Stafford. Or, as he himself quaintly expressed it: "I had been accustomed all my life to draw corn from the quarter-master, and found it rather hard now to draw it from an obstinate soil; *but I did it!*"

General Lee was one of the most universally popular soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia; indeed, he was a favorite with his superiors, the boon companion of his brother officers, and the idol of his men.

"Jeb." Stuart and himself were fast friends. They rode together, laughed together, sang together and fought together, and one of the tenderest tributes of our war literature is a eulogy on Stuart which General Lee pronounced at one of the Army of Northern Virginia re-unions held in Richmond several years ago.

Stuart had the very highest opinion of the military capacity of his friend, "Fitz," as he lovingly called him, and ex-President Davis, in a public speech at the unveiling of

the monument to "Stonewall" Jackson in New Orleans, al-
luded to General Fitzhugh Lee as "the friend and peer of
'Jeb.' Stuart."

Since the war Gen. Lee has earnestly sought "the things
which make for peace," while his conduct has always been
manly and free from anything approaching to cringing or
crawling at the feet of power, and has done no little to
bring about a better feeling between the soldiers of the two
sections.

In 1866 he attended a commencement at the University
of Virginia, where many of his old soldiers were students,
and in response to the enthusiastic and persistent calls of
the crowd, he stepped to the front of the platform, and,
when the enthusiastic cheers with which he was greeted had
subsided, he made the following brief but characteristic
speech :

"I thank you, comrades and friends, for your flattering
call and your cordial greeting. I would love to speak to
you. But there is in the State of Virginia, a little village
called Appomattox Court House, *and there on the 9th day of
April, 1865, I suddenly discovered that I had nothing more
to say.*"

He went with the Norfolk Light Infantry Blues, to
Bunker Hill, in 1874, and there made a speech which
attracted the attention of the whole country for its manly,
patriotic utterances.

In the Winter of 1882, and Spring of 1883, General Lee
lectured for the benefit of the Southern Historical Society,
at Darlington, Charleston, and Greenville, S. C.; Atlanta,
Savannah, Augusta, Athens, and Rome, Ga.; Knoxville,
Memphis, Nashville, and Gallatin, Tenn.; Montgomery
and Mobile, Ala.; New Orleans, La.; Galveston, Houston,
San Antonio, Austin, Waco, Corsicana, and Dallas, Tex.;
and Little Rock, Ark.; and everywhere received 'a splen-

did ovation. City and State officials vied with each other to do him honor; crowds flocked to hear him, and his old army friends were enthusiastic in their expressions of admiration and love.

At the Centennial at Yorktown, he commanded the Virginia troops, and received an ovation greater even than that accorded to the President of the United States, or any one else of the distinguished soldiers and civilians present.

And at the inaugural of President Cleveland, on the 4th of March, 1885, as he rode up Pennsylvania Avenue, at the head of the division he commanded, he was greeted everywhere with cheers and the waving of handkerchiefs, and accorded an enthusiastic ovation, which surpassed even that given to the President himself.

Speaking of this he modestly said: "It was not personal to myself, but merely an expression of the joy of that vast multitude that the South had once more been accorded a place in this gathering of the whole people of our common country."

When he served on General Hancock's staff at the funeral of General Grant, he met the same enthusiastic greeting.

When he went back to West Point last Summer, as one of the Board of Visitors of the Academy, he met with the most cordial reception.

Indeed, there can be but little doubt that one of the most universally popular men in America—North, South, East and West, to-day, is our gallant and able soldier, our genial and gifted gentleman, our patriotic and devoted citizen—*General Fitzhugh Lee, the next Governor of Virginia.*

A BRIGADIER-GENERAL FACTORY.

We cannot do better, in further illustration of the character and antecedents of the subject of this necessarily hasty sketch, than to give the experience of one of his own men, now a resident of New York. Said this gentleman, to a correspondent of the *Boston Herald*, not long since :

“ ‘ When I first knew Fitz Lee he was Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Regiment of Virginia Cavalry, in which I held the position of Private. Stuart, familiarly known as ‘Jeb,’ and to his intimates as ‘Beauty Stuart,’ was the Colonel of the regiment. After the battle of Bull Run, Stuart wanted to ride into Washington, as he always maintained he could have done, at the head of his regiment. Disappointed in that, he pushed his outposts as near to the gates of Washington as his superior officers would let him, and from that time onward he was almost never in the camp of his regiment. He lived on Mason’s and Munson’s hills, leaving Fitz Lee in charge of the camp; and Fitz, or ‘Little Fitz’ as he was called, was quite as restless and as much disposed to live at the front as Stuart himself was. It was Fitz’s practice to take all the men who were able to sit up and go on a scouting expedition in front of Stuart’s lines, leaving the camp in charge of the Chaplain and the sore-backed horses. The Chaplain—Captain Ball—was as belligerent as either of his superiors. It was his practice to mount all the sick men on the sore-backed horses, and spend his Sundays hunting for something to fight in front of Fitz Lee’s scouting parties.

“‘Stuart was then made a Brigadier-General, and Fitz Lee succeeded him as Colonel. Thereupon Stuart said to Captain Ball: ‘You are about the worst Chaplain I ever knew, but you are an uncommonly good fighter. I think I will make you a Major on my staff, and give you military instead of ecclesiastical functions.’ Fitz Lee, as soon as he had the regiment in his own hands, was not long in winning a brigade for himself. I remember he said to us, when he got his promotion, that the First Regiment of Virginia Cavalry was a Brigadier-General factory. ‘Nobody,’ said he, ‘could command you boys for two months without becoming a General or a corpse.’ He was restlessly active and vigilant to a degree rarely equaled. He seemed to rejoice in a fight for its own sake, and I think he and Stuart did as much as anybody else to help McClellan in his difficult task of restoring the steadiness and *morale* of the Army of the Potomac.

“‘I have one very vivid recollection of Fitz Lee. He led a party of us one day on a scouting expedition, and we attacked a strong picket post within sight of a Federal camp. No sooner had we ridden through the picket than a body of Federal cavalry dashed out from the camp to attack us. My horse was killed under me in the first assault, and when the recall sounded I was on foot, with the scattered picket guards all around. Then Fitz Lee, who was the last to come out, as he had been the first to go in, saw me just in time, held out his hand and extended his foot as he galloped by. I grasped his hand, placed my foot on his, and with the strength of a donkey-engine, he swung me up to his crupper and carried me out of danger. Naturally, I have had a kindly feeling for Fitz Lee ever since that August morning. I do not know what sort of politician or statesman he is, but I do know that he was a gallant soldier, a brave man, and a thoroughly good fellow.’”

THE POLITICAL VIEWS.

It will be scarcely necessary after this to analyze the character of the candidate of the Democratic party for the chief position on its ticket. That he has personal courage is not saying the best of him,—many men have that—and he has proved his on many a dangerous field,—but he has the higher courage which, for want of a better word, we call “moral.” He preserves his judgment in the midst of tumult, is unmoved by flattery, inaccessible to any low motive. No eminence will make him arrogant—as misfortune never broke his spirit. He has great presence of mind, and a ready, kindly humor. When noisily called for after his nomination, he said: “It must have been some time since you have seen a Democratic Governor of Virginia, since you become so uproarious upon looking at the next one.”

The twinkle of the eye when he so calmly assumed his election, was irresistible, and there was that touch of good comradeship in the remark and the bearing of the speaker that would have won over any opponent if there had been one there.

This sketch would be incomplete if we did not give the reader, however briefly, an outline of General Lee's political creed. These words, from his eloquent and convincing speech at Accomac on the last of August, will show the reader where the General “stands.” Said the General:

“It is very true that the leader of the Republican party in this State declares that it has been the idle, inconsiderate, and vindictive meddling of the Democratic party in the last Legislature that has arrested the quiet and orderly settlement of the whole matter of the debt on the basis of the Riddleberger law; but General Mahone's charges are themselves idle. The Democratic party, two years ago in

Lynchburg and last month in Richmond, accepted as final the settlement of the State debt pronounced constitutional by the courts of last resort (Federal and State), and pledged itself to oppose all agitation of the question or any disturbance of that settlement by repeal or otherwise. The Legislature of Virginia also adopted a resolution in both branches that 'The people of Virginia have accepted the act of February 14, 1882, known as the Riddleberger bill, as the ultimate settlement of the debt of this State; that it is their unalterable purpose that the settlement shall be final, and that their expectation that any settlement of the debt of this State upon any other basis will ever be made or tolerated by the people of Virginia is absolutely illusory and hopeless.'

"The Democratic party not only accepted, by resolutions adopted by its Legislature and State Conventions, the Riddleberger bill, but also the accompanying measures, known as the coupon killers, in the spirit of its written and the letter of its spoken promises. The Democratic party agreed to make them effectual by all constitutional legislation which it might be called on to enact, or which the exigencies of any occasion might require. This is what the Democratic party promised, and this is what it performed, nothing more or less. Governor Cameron's first message to the Legislature called attention to the necessity of prompt amendments to these coupon killers. All the measures which the Democratic Legislature passed were passed at the suggestion of Governor Cameron and with the approval of the Republican members of the Legislature. None of these measures have impaired or can impair the effect of the original acts they were designed only to make effectual."

General Lee here quoted from Mr. R. T. Barton, of Winchester, in whom he said the bar of the State has the greatest confidence. After a full analysis, and after alluding

to the questions at issue between ex-Governor D. H. Chamberlain, of South Carolina, and Congressman Wise, General Lee gave it as the opinion of the highest Democratic authority that the Democratic party was not responsible for the vexatious litigation which the State debt trouble has caused. The case of Poindexter against Green arose before the Democratic amendment of March 13, 1884, and in that case the act of January 26, 1882, was declared to be unconstitutional, null, and void. It was, therefore, unconstitutional before, and not because of the act of March 13, 1884. General Lee contended that if, as General Mahone asserts, the action of the last General Assembly was idle, inconsiderate, and vindictive, then General Mahone and Governor Cameron were responsible for it.

General Lee then explained his own attitude on the debt question. He himself had originally been in favor of paying \$30,000,000, as the Maccullough bill provided. The Democratic party, having been defeated on the issue, had acquiesced in the decision of the majority. Its skirts were clear.

General Lee then discussed the question of State rights, which, it is charged, the Democratic party has raised. He quoted from John Hancock and Alexander Hamilton to sustain his position, and to justify the Democratic party. He held, with the Democratic platform, that the debt question had ceased to be a matter of dollars and cents, and is now a question of State sovereignty, a question in which every State in the Union is vitally interested. In 1793 the Legislature of Virginia responded to a request from John Hancock of Massachusetts, who requested the Legislature to consider a question then made prominent by a suit against the State of Massachusetts by William Vassals, the result of which the Chief Justice, speaking through Bradley, says we are bound to give its full and substantial bearing

and effect. The remedy, in General Lee's opinion, is to protest against the bold judicial usurpation of the Supreme Court, and insist that the eleventh amendment shall not be violated or evaded. The jurisdiction of the Federal courts must be kept within the plain meaning of the Constitution.

In discussing his opponent, John S. Wise, General Lee was guarded and dignified in his language. He did not fail, however, to criticise him severely.

General Lee dwelt on the necessary development of the South in general and Virginia in particular. He proclaimed himself thoroughly national in his sympathies. He alluded eloquently to his recent visit to New York to participate in the funeral obsequies of General Grant. He had realized then and there the hearty union of the North and South. He had rejoiced that in the South the interests of all the people were best promoted by the continuance in power of the Democratic party. The South was now beginning to prosper. The South has grown prosperous and philosophical. It lives in the industrial excitement of the day and the industrial hope and promise of the morrow. It is not lingering over the pages of last year's almanac nor chanting misereres over the memories of a sanguinary civil feud that occurred in this country something like a quarter of a century ago.

General Lee concluded with hearty commendation of President Cleveland's Administration, and an eloquent appeal in behalf of the Democratic party of Virginia.

ENDORSEMENTS, INCIDENTS, &c.

Among the earliest to congratulate General Lee upon his nomination, was General Averill, the well-known Union cavalry leader. Nothing is more indicative of the thorough burial of the issues of the war. The following is the preceding telegram sent by General Averill:

WASHINGTON, July 30th, 1885.

Accept my hearty congratulations. I shall rejoice in your election.

W. W. AVERILL.

To the dispatch below is signed a name that well matches the preceding one, and wakens almost as many memories in the old soldier, as that of the candidate him lf.

LAKE PARK HOTEL, MINNETONKA, MINN., July 30th, 1885.

I heartily congratulate you on your nomination. I shall help your election.

T. J. ROSSER.

Bradley T. Johnson sends his congratulations veiled in a saying that will be remembered, at once, by all old "hossback soldiers;" here it is:

UNION STATION, BALTIMORE, MD., July 30th, 1885.

"If you want to have a good time, jine the cavalry." Twenty-five thousand majority.

BRADLEY T. JOHNSON.

These are but samples of several hundred telegrams which were showered upon the candidate, as soon as his nomination was known,

The military organization of the State, civic societies, and individuals, hastened to record their approval in this manner. Newspapers were quite as strong in their endorsement; and, by this we mean not only those of our own State, but those, which, being removed from direct interest in the contest, are qualified to speak of the issues and prospects of the campaign with impartiality and calmness.

THESE ARE THE WORDS OF THE "NEW YORK WORLD:"

"The Democratic Convention was made up of the most distinguished and honorable citizens of Virginia. Its proceedings were dignified, and bespoke a confidence of victory. Its platform is one which the people will heartily endorse. It opposes excessive taxation, and the further agitation of the "settled debt" question; leaves to the people in counties and districts to decide the liquor and beer question for themselves; condemns the employment of convict labor in competition with honest free labor; maintains that reduction in taxation can, and must be made without depriving American labor of the ability to compete successfully with foreign labor; endorses civil service reform, while demanding the removal of offensive partisans and dishonest officials, and commends President Cleveland's Administration.

"The name of Fitzhugh Lee for Governor, is in itself a tower of strength. With John E. Massey for Lieutenant-Governor, and an acceptable platform, a Democratic triumph is not even doubtful."

SAYS THE "BALTIMORE SUN:"

"The nomination of General Fitzhugh Lee for the office of Governor of Virginia, inaugurates a campaign which promises to be not only interesting, but decisive. In General Lee, the Democrats of the "Old Dominion" have a leader whose name, associated as it is with everything of which Virginians are proud, from the revolutionary period down to

the present day, is sure to stir the heart and win support. Distinguished for his services as commander of the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia, during the last year of the civil war, and eminent since the war in the practice of the civic virtues of which his uncle, General R. E. Lee, was so great an exemplar, the Democratic nominee is in every way fitted to restore to the gubernatorial office in Virginia the lustre it once possessed. The State itself, under his guidance, may well expect to regain among the other States of the Union, the position of honor and pre-eminence it so worthily held. His success in the coming fight will mean, of course, the disruption of the peculiar Readjuster-Republican organization called into existence in 1879 by Mahone, and later, with the cement of Federal patronage, compacted into the most perfect political machine ever constructed within the limits of a Southern State.

"The action of the Convention in nominating Mr. Massey, "the father of Readjusterism," for the office of Lieutenant-Governor, was dictated by a wise regard for the susceptibilities of the "original Readjuster" element of the party, while the nomination of Mr. Ayres for Attorney-General will be particularly grateful to the young Democracy of South-western Virginia, and will doubtless add strength to the ticket. The platform upon which the nominees will stand embraces all the live issues of State and national politics.

"Upon the whole, the platform is a good fighting document in Virginia, and is expected to contribute not a little to the success, this Fall, to which most Virginia Democrats look forward with a considerable degree of confidence."

We will, perhaps, be forgiven, if we give the effort of an enthusiast as fore-shadowing the inevitable result of the coming election. If it is a little halting, the reader must pardon the scanning, in view of the sentiment—

Our opponent is sad, boys,
And heaveth heavy sighs;
He has a doubt, as well he may,
As who shall get the prize.
One thing he may be sure of,
Let him wipe his weeping eyes;
Our chief will be a wise one,
But will not be one Wise.

Here we leave our great subject, confident that in his personal character, in his past achievements as soldier, farmer and citizen, and in his political opinions and conduct, the people of Virginia have every guarantee that his occupation of the gubernatorial chair of Virginia will redound to his own honor and that of the grand old State.

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